

HOME OF AMANDA DEYO, PEACE ACTIVIST, IS DESIGNATED A CLINTON LANDMARK

CHS Landmark: 1245 Hollow Rd

By John Lacey

"Every girl should have the power to earn her own livelihood."

This assertion received overwhelming approval in 1980, when women around the country were beginning to realize their place in the modern workforce; but Amanda Deyo spoke these words in 1880 to a crowd of thousands at the Connecticut Peace Society's annual meeting. Amanda was a pioneer in the growing peace movement after the Civil War, and this was not the first time her views foreshadowed those of modern times.

This year, the Clinton Historical Society has awarded Landmark status to the house where Amanda Deyo lived from 1868-1886. It is located on the north side of Hollow Road, one mile west of the intersection with Salt Point Turnpike. The current owner is John Lowin. The CHS Landmark program recognizes significant homes, public buildings and sites in the town of Clinton. Significance is defined as a pre-20th Century building that was the home of a notable Clinton resident, or that has an exterior that is, essentially, original and is an example of the architecture of the period.

Amanda Halstead, born Julia Amanda in 1838, was raised on a 110-acre farm owned by her parents Joseph G. and Hannah G. Halstead, not far from Clinton Corners. Raised in the Quaker tradition, she graduated from the Poughkeepsie Female Collegiate Institute at the age of 17. She married Charles Deyo in 1857 and moved to the Hollow Road farm only a mile from her childhood home in 1868. Amanda and her husband provided the spark in bringing the peace movement to Dutchess County in 1871. She served as secretary and he served as president of the newly formed Dutchess County Peace Society for 17 years.

Amanda's energy and enthusiasm helped the



Peace Society grow to 3000 members in 1876. Focusing on women's suffrage, religion and temperance, she spoke to large crowds throughout the Northeast. Her focus on peace and religion reached a pinnacle in 1885 when she received a license from the NYS Universalist Association to preach. Two months later, the now "Reverend" Deyo began preaching in the Universalist Church in Poughkeepsie and was hailed as the only female pastor in Dutchess County. In 1888 she was called to be pastor of the Universalist Church in Oxford, Chenango County. She was appointed to represent the Universal Peace Union at the Peace Congress held during the Paris Exposition in June 1889. While in Paris, she spoke of a "United States of Europe" in which nations would exchange "their produce, their industry, their arts, their genius with the United States." In consideration of the present day European Union, Amanda Deyo was 100 years ahead of her time.

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After establishing the San Diego Peace Society in 1894, her husband's failing health brought Amanda back to Highland, NY. The passing of Charles in 1897 slowed the indefatigable Deyo only briefly and she was soon speaking again for the National Council of Women, sharing the podium with notables such as Susan B. Anthony, in 1901. In 1917 she became gravely ill and her family laid her to rest next to husband in Highland, NY.

Reverend Deyo's words spoken in 1880 "Take the peace out of religion and what have we left?" speaks to a legacy that holds as much weight now as it did 120 years ago.

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